

## Short Note 1.8

### Overwhelming Emotions!

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Soon after the program end in 2006, the Department lifted the prohibition on citrus sales for residents and grove owners. Patty Haire shared her experiences with me:

Jack and I visited our favorite nursery, Flamingo Road Nursery, not long after the horrid citrus eradication program ended. We walked to the back area and stopped in our tracks. We were standing in front of a sign that read "Citrus Trees for Sale." There was a very large area of a variety of citrus trees. We both just stared at the sight of citrus available to the public.

When we got home I called my dear friend Helen and said there was someplace I needed to take her. Without knowing where she was going to go, she agreed. I took her to the back area of the nursery and physically positioned her in front of the sign and trees. I took her arm and said, with tears in my eyes, "Helen, do you realize what we are looking at? Do you realize what we have done?" This is a moment that I will never forget. We both had tears in our eyes. Each and every time Jack and I pass a sign advertising citrus for sale to the public I get tears in my eyes. We always say out loud, "Courtesy of Andrew Meyers and Jack and Patty Haire."

Patty said she was very proud to be a part of a group of many people, both within government organizations and private citizens, who help bring the program to an end. Andrew Meyers, as Broward County attorney, led the legal challenge to the CCEP in court.

Jack and Patty Haire were lead plaintiffs in the Broward Court cases. Helen Ackerman had researched citrus canker by browsing the internet and kept others informed of what she discovered in her community of Plantation, Florida. She opened a dialog with other scientists, to have a more broad perspective on citrus canker.

David Lord